Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1.-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) An improved element for forming ground covering, restraining and reinforcing structures, ~~with~~said improved element comprising a front wall comprising at least one panel of electrically welded wire netting, a lower wall and an upper wall each comprising at least one panel of double-twist hexagonal-mesh wire netting, the front wall being connected in an articulated manner at one of its end edges at least, to an edge of the lower wall or the upper wall.

13. (Previously Presented) An improved element as claimed in claim 12, wherein the front wall is connected in an articulated manner at two of its opposite end edges to an edge of the lower wall and an edge of the upper wall respectively.

14. (Currently Amended) An improved element as claimed in claim 12, wherein the upper wall has a height substantially corresponding to or ~~lower~~less than the height of the front wall.

15. (Previously Presented) An improved element as claimed in claim 12, further comprising bracket means adapted to support, in use, the front wall in an inclined configuration with respect to the lower wall.

16. (Previously Presented) An improved element as claimed in claim 15, wherein the bracket means comprise at

least one triangular bracket with a side secured in an articulated manner to the front wall.

17. (Previously Presented) An improved element as claimed in claim 12, wherein a layer of geosynthetic material or bio-matting is secured to the front wall.

18. (Previously Presented) An improved element as claimed in claim 12, wherein the articulated connection of the front wall to the lower wall and/or the upper wall is factory-made, the element being stowed and/or transported to the place of use in a flat configuration in which the front wall is placed on the lower wall and/or the upper wall.

19. (Previously Presented) An improved element as claimed in claim 18, wherein the front wall is connected in an articulated manner to both the lower wall and the upper wall, the element being stowed and/or transported to the place of use in a flat configuration in which the front wall and the upper wall are both placed on the lower wall.

20. (Previously Presented) An improved element as claimed in claim 18, wherein the front wall is connected in an articulated manner to both the lower wall and the upper wall, the element being stowed and/or transported to the place of use in a flat configuration in which the front wall, the upper wall and the lower wall are folded and placed at least partially on top of one another in a zigzag configuration.

21. (Currently Amended) An improved element as claimed in claim 12, wherein the upper wall comprises at least two panels connected to one another in an articulated manner along a common edge substantially parallel to the edges of the front wall.

22. (New) An improved element for forming ground covering, restraining and reinforcing structures, the improved element comprising a front wall, a lower wall and an upper wall, the front wall being connected in an articulated manner at one of its end edges at least, to an edge of the lower wall or the upper wall, wherein the upper wall comprises at least two panels connected to one another in an articulated manner along a common edge substantially parallel to the end edges of the front wall.

23. (New) An improved element according to claim 22, wherein the front wall is connected in an articulated manner at two of its opposite end edges to an edge of the lower wall and an edge of the upper wall respectively.

24. (New) An improved element as claimed in claim 22, wherein the upper wall has a height substantially corresponding to or less than the height of the front wall.

25. (New) An improved element as claimed in claim 22, further comprising bracket means adapted to support, in use, the front wall in an inclined configuration with respect to the lower wall.

26. (New) An improved element as claimed in claim 25, wherein the bracket means comprise at least one triangular bracket with a side secured in an articulated manner to the front wall.

27. (New) An improved element as claimed in claim 22, wherein a layer of geosynthetic material or bio-matting is secured to the front wall.

28. (New) An improved element as claimed in claim 22, wherein the front wall comprises at least one panel of electrically welded wire netting, the lower and upper walls

each comprising at least one panel of double-twist hexagonal-mesh wire netting.

29. (New) An arrangement for forming ground covering, restraining and reinforcing structures, said arrangement comprising a front wall including a panel of welded wire netting, a lower wall and an upper wall each including a panel of double-twist hexagonal-mesh wire netting, each said wall defining a pair of spaced-apart side edges and a pair of spaced-apart end edges oriented transversely relative to the respective side edges, said front wall and one of said upper and lower walls being separate components from one another and one of said end edges of said front wall being pre-connected to an adjacent said end edge of said one upper and lower wall to define a freely-articulating joint therebetween, said freely-articulating joint being configured to permit said front wall and said one upper and lower wall to articulate freely relative to one another during installation of said arrangement.

30. (New) The arrangement of Claim 29, wherein said front wall and both said upper and lower walls are separate components from one another, said one end edge of said front wall being pre-connected to said end edge of said lower wall to define said freely-articulating joint therebetween, and the other said end edge of said front wall being pre-connected to an adjacent said end edge of said upper wall to define a freely-articulating joint therebetween, said freely-articulating joints being configured to permit free articulation of said front wall and said upper and lower walls relative to one another during installation.

31. (New) The arrangement of Claim 29, wherein said freely-articulating joint is configured to permit said front wall and said one upper and lower wall to articulate freely relative to one another during installation of said

arrangement without requiring manual deformation of said walls during installation.

32. (New) A method of making and using an arrangement for forming ground covering, restraining and reinforcing structures, said method comprising the steps of:

providing the arrangement with a front wall with a panel of welded wire netting, and lower and upper walls with respective panels of double-twist hexagonal-mesh wire netting;

connecting, at a place of manufacture of the arrangement, an end edge of the front wall to an end edge of one of the lower and upper walls to define an articulating joint therebetween;

after said step of connecting, transporting the arrangement to a desired site requiring ground covering, restraining or reinforcing; and

installing the arrangement at the desired site, and during said step of installing, articulating the front wall and the one upper and lower wall relative to one another at the articulating joint.

33. (New) The method of Claim 32, further comprising forming the front wall and the one upper and lower wall as separate components from one another, and said step of articulating does not require deformation of the material of any of the walls.